



LARC



Volume 55, Number 3

ACADIANA AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC..

MARCH 2015

Presidents Message – March 2015 LARC

Time does fly and it seems lately to have taken wings. The hamfest activity is building and the radio activity is picking up. Thanks to all who have volunteered their time to help and those who will help even though they have not signed up yet. Special thanks to Glen Thibodeaux, KF5FNP and Galen Wilson, KF5BET, and Herman Campbell, KN5GRK for all the leadership and background work in getting the hamfest underway. If you want to help and have not volunteered, send Ric Wallace an email with the times you can be available and a phone number where you can be contacted. Send to: KF5KEL@arrl.net.

It seems that just yesterday I put up my small tower and got my wire antennas hung up and aligned. I went out this week and one of my end support lines on one antenna was broken and one leg of the antenna was on the ground. The support line has MOSS growing on it. It seems that the wind brushed the line against a pecan tree limb until it severed. Gosh, it's only been up for about 6 years, where did the moss come from? Looks like I have some antenna maintenance coming my way. I think I will replace the antenna as well with one using insulated copper wire which was in my plan anyway, instead of the copper weld stuff that has ultra-thin coating of copper and starts to rust in less than two years. Many of the individual strands of the wire are broken because of the rust. It seems that materials and products are no longer lasting as long. I always planned these first antennas to be temporary experimental ones, but they were working great so I stuck to the old adage, "If it's not broke, don't fix it". This year will also see me bury the cable up to the tower so I can stop moving cables each time I mow the lawn.

I have been working with our antenna trailer. As seen in the video at the last meeting, there is a tendency for the tower to oscillate when stopped on the downward cycle. It can be handled with careful pulsing the solenoid, but it requires good timing. I will try to create a second pulley at the base of the tower to slow down the winch but it may not work. The antenna element tubes are ready to be picked up in Rayne which I will do sometime this week (Feb 18 or 19). I have a welder who will put in the support arms to hold the tubes and will get that done the next week. Hopefully, weather permitting, I will call on a few people to get the safety decking put in place this weekend. One new added safety feature will be a limit switch which will cut off power to the winch once the tower is fully raised. Hopefully we will have time to sand rust spots and paint them to slow down the rust problems.

I want to thank Galen Wilson, KF5BET, and the nominating committee for providing us with an excellent slate of officers and board members for the next year. I also want to thank Mark Saltzman, W5GTI, for accepting the duty of President of our club. I am sure that we all will support the new team with our ideas and participation in the club activities. The AARA club has had a long history of excellent officers to guide us and provide activities and training. I want to thank all the current officers and board members that helped to make my job an easy one. I especially want to thank Sandy LeBlanc, KE5KJF, for reminding me of the things I needed to do to be ready for each meeting. I have enjoyed serving all the members of the club. I am looking forward to the hamfest on March 20 and 21st, see you all there.

Larry Leblanc KE5KJD
AARA President

AARA MEMBERSHIP DUES

If you have not paid your 2015-2016 AARA membership dues, now would be a good time to do so. A membership application can be downloaded from the website at:

http://www.w5ddl.org/aara_membership_appl.pdf

You can also view the membership roster by going to the website and clicking on the "Member Roster" link and entering the username and password given online.

<http://www.w5ddl.org>

AARA March General Meeting

**Thursday, March 5, 2015 @
7:00 PM - Red Cross Building,
101 N. Pat St., Scott, LA.**

**We will be a pre-discussion
of our up-coming AARA Ham-
fest on March 20 & 21, 2015.
See page 3 of this newsletter.**

VE Testing @ 6:00 PM

DATES TO REMEMBER

GENERAL MEETING

March 5, 2015 @ 7:00 PM
Red Cross Building
101 N. Pat St. Scott, LA
VE Testing Tonight @ 6:00 PM

AREA HAMFESTS

See page 4

Local 2-Meter Nets

Sunday

Opelousas Area ARA Net 7:00 PM
147.150 PL 103.5 Carencro, LA

Monday

AARA Monday Night Net 7:00 PM
146.820 - PL 103.5 Lafayette, LA

Tuesday

Acadiana ARES Net 7:00 PM
145.370 - PL 103.5 Lafayette, LA

Wednesday

Bodie's Memorial DX Net
145.410 New Iberia, LA

Thursday

Youth Net 7:00 PM
146.820 - PL 103.5 Lafayette, LA

AARA OFFICERS 2014 - 2015

President - Larry LeBlanc KE5KJD
LarryJamesLeBlanc@centurylink.net
Vice Pres. - Jess Gillion - KF5LUL
Secretary - Sandy Leblanc - KE5KJF
Treasurer - Archie Hill—W5AG

BOARD MEMBERS

Paula Romero - KF5CNS
Glen Thibodeaux - KF5FNP
James Williams - KF5RBW
Kendra Wilson - KF5FYS

QSL MANAGER

Roland Guidry - NA5Q

NEWSLETTER EDITOR & PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

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The **LARC** is published monthly by the:

Acadiana Amateur Radio Association

P. O. Box 51174
Lafayette, Louisiana 70505-1174

Regular meetings 1st Thursday
of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the
American Red Cross Building, 101
North Pat Street, Scott, LA

FEBRUARY 2015 AARA CLUB MEETING MINUTES

February 5, 2015

CLUB MEETING:

- The AARA meeting was called to order by President Larry LeBlanc KE5KJD.
- Tom Dischler W5OHJ led the prayer.
- All said the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 20 members and 5 guests attended the meeting.

Larry LeBlanc KE5KJD, President, called the meeting to order and had everyone introduce themselves, as well as giving something interesting they did with Ham Radio.

Minutes: The January minutes were submitted by Sandy LeBlanc KE5KJF, secretary, and they were posted in the February LARC. On motion by Nick Romero KE5MWX, seconded by Ric Wallace KF5KEL, the minutes were accepted as published.

Hamfest: Glen Thibodeaux KF5FNP and Galen Wilson KF5BET will be Co-Chairmen for the Hamfest which will be held March 20-21, 2015, at the Rayne Convention Center. Pre-registration is \$4.00 and you get 1 ticket and registration at the door will be \$5.00. Glen brought a list of jobs for which we will need volunteers. Ric Wallace KF5KEL volunteered to be the volunteer co-coordinator. Sign up after the meeting.

We will have the same caterer as last year. Crawfish will be \$24 for 4 pounds and if the price goes down you will get more. Only those pre-registered are guaranteed crawfish. Chris, the caterer, mentioned that he will have gumbo, shrimp and crab stew, BBQ hamburgers, sausage po-boys, potato salad. For breakfast he will have egg sandwiches, sausage on biscuit and biscuits. Chris mentioned that he would like to give one free order of crawfish. On motion by Jess Gillion KF5LUL, seconded by Tom Dischler W5OHJ the club approved. There will be a drawing at the next meeting on March 5th.

We will be needing the antenna trailer for the Hamfest. A work day is scheduled for February 21st to put in the flooring on the trailer. It will be at Larry LeBlanc's house.

Paul McCasland will handle the PA system. Sandy LeBlanc KE5KJF will check on the arm-bands for registration.

Paula Romero KF5CNS mentioned that we should have a table for go-kit competition.

There will be a Test Table. On motion by Tom Dischler W5OHJ, seconded by Bob Cleveland KE5AYK the club approved the ordering of crimpers for Anderson Power Poles. Larry LeBlanc KE5KJD will order the crimpers and connectors.

Paula Romero KF5CNS and Jackie Wallace KF5PCH will be needing help in the Sweet Shop. Sandy brought baskets and fabric for the Sweet Shop.

Weston Hebert KB5WI will be running the Bingo on Saturday. He will be needing help. At the next meeting members should bring prizes for the Bingo. Weston will have his truck.

Handi-talkie Drawing: Mark Saltzman W5GTI, Net Controller for the Monday Night net, purchased the dual band handi-talkie with all the accessories. The top 10 people who checked in on the Monday Night net were considered for the drawing. The winner is Ray N5LRZ. Ray gave the radio back to the club for another drawing. The winner is Derick WM5TS. We all would like to THANK Mark for all he does for the AARA.

Hamfest Banquet: The Hamfest Banquet will be at the Red Cross building on Pat Street on April 2nd at 6 pm.

Larry LeBlanc KE5KJD will provide the meat for the banquet. Members will bring side dishes and desserts.

Nominating Committee: Galen Wilson KF5BET, Nominating Committee Chairman announced that the new slate of officers had been determined. The new slate of Officers is as follows:

President – Mark Saltzman W5GTI
Vice President – Larry LeBlanc KE5KJD

Secretary – Abbi Wilson KF5BEW

Treasurer – Archie Hill W5AG

Board of Directors – Glen Thibodeaux KF5FNP and Ric Wallace KF5KEL

Mark Saltzman W5GTI was nominated for President. Glen Thibodeaux KF5FNP was nominated from the floor and he declined. Nominations were closed on motion by Tom Dischler W5OHJ, seconded by Jess Gillion KF5LUL. Mark Saltzman W5GTI is President.

Larry LeBlanc KE5KJD was nominated for Vice President. On motion by Ric Wallace KF5KEL, seconded by Jess Gillion KF5LUL the nominations were closed. Larry LeBlanc KE5KJD is Vice-President.

Abbi Wilson KF5BEW was nominated for Secretary. On motion by Mark Saltzman W5GTI, seconded by Jackie Wallace KF5PCH the nominations were closed. Abbi Wilson KF5BEW is Secretary.

(continued on page 4 column 3)



Largest Hamfest on Gulf Coast!!

55th ACADIANA HAMFEST

ARRL LOUISIANA STATE CONVENTION

Sponsored by: Acadiana Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

Friday March 20th - 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm & Saturday March 21st - 8:00 am - 3:00 pm, 2015

Rayne, Louisiana - Admission \$5.00 - Talk-in: W5DDL 146.820 (pl 103.5)

Overnight Security provided by Rayne PD

Friday: 6:00 PM Crawfish Boil (Pre-register only) - 7:00 PM Fais-Do-Do with French Music by the Texas Ham Playboys.

Admission \$5.00 at Door

CONFIRMED MANUFACTURERS & FACTORY REPRESENTATIVES:

- **KENWOOD U.S.A.** ■ **MFJ ENTERPRISES** ■ **ELECRAFT**
 ■ **EXPERT LINEARS AMERICA**

CONFIRMED DEALERS:

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| ■ MAIN TRADING COMPANY | ■ BE READY SOLAR |
| ■ PALMETTO ANTENNAS | ■ HOUSTON AMATEUR RADIO SUPPLY |
| ■ SIGN MAN OF BATON ROUGE | ■ FRANK KRIZE (SURPLUS TUBES & PARTS) |
| ■ BE READY SOLAR | ■ M ^c M COMPUTERS |

MAIN PRIZES

OVER \$2,500 IN MAIN PRIZES WILL BE GIVEN AWAY

Grand Prize: KENWOOD TS-590SG 160 - 6 Meter (Donated by Kenwood)

2nd Prize: Yaesu FT1-DR Dual Band Digital/Analog Amateur Transceiver

3rd Prize: MFJ 269A Antenna Analyzer (Donated by MFJ)

4th Prize: MFJ OCF Dipole Antenna

5th Prize: ARRL 1 Year Membership

6th Prize: Baofeng UV-5R Dual Band Handheld

Must be present to win Main Prizes.

Door Prizes every half hour.

TABLES - Swap: \$10.00 each - See website for downloadable forms. As of 2/11/15 we only have 30 tables left.

LADIES BINGO - By Weston KB5WI - Saturday only - Starts 8:30 am to Noon

FORUMS - **Saturday Only** - ARRL - ARES - ARRL Digital Communications - LOUISIANA CONTEST CLUB - Leveraging SDR for Better DX by Greg Jurens (K5GJ) - LA Council of Radio Clubs - AMSAT

Guest Speaker - Kenneth Bailey, K1FUG - ARRL Emergency Preparedness Assistant - ARRL, the National Association for Amateur Radio®. Forum title "Why Digital Communications is a Great Mode for Emergency Communications".

CARD CHECKING - DXCC by John Uhl W5ZE - Saturday 10:00 to 11:00 AM

VE TESTING (Saturday Only) 0900 ARRL VE Testing - By Greg K5LFT

(Please bring copies of FCC License, Photo ID & CSCE's)

RADIO TESTING TABLE AVAILABLE - WATTMETER - DUMMY LOAD - POWER SUPPLY

You can buy with confidence at our Hamfest - No DOA Radios

Go-Kit Displays along with discussion. QRP / Factory & Home Brew Rigs Displays with Q & A.

Café CO MENU (Refreshments)

Friday Night - Chicken & Sausage Gumbo w/Potato Salad, Shrimp & Crab Stew, Coffee & Soft Drinks.

Saturday (Breakfast 0700) - Coffee, Plain Biscuits & Sausage Biscuits., Egg Sandwiches.

Saturday (Lunch 1100) - Shrimp & Crab Stew, Chicken & Sausage Gumbo w/Potato Salad, BBQ Hamburgers and BBQ Sausage Poboy's. Coffee, Soft Drinks, Iced Tea & Water Available Both Days

Check Website for Directions & Updates at:

<http://www.w5ddl.org/hamfest/>

When All Else Fails



The motto of the ARRL and a lot of hams is “when all else fails”. A great number of folks entered the world of amateur radio with the idea that not only is it a great hobby, but it is also an added level of security in case of an emergency. Today, as in a lot of history, we see emergencies on a daily basis. For example; weather in the form of flooding, hurricane, tornado, earthquake or wild fires, or civil unrest as seen in Missouri. So what are we as hams to do? To borrow another motto, this one from the Boy Scouts is “Be Prepared”. So, we test, experiment, and then test some more. With that said, my personal experience as a ham has been a bit like a firefighter in a city made of stone. I train a great deal but rarely am I put into action.

So how do we stay focused on the need for emergency communication?

Being a middle-aged man living most of my life in Louisiana, and running rescue as an EMT for 20+ years, I know of the issues of hurricanes (i.e. Katrina, Rita, etc.) with the wind and flooding damage they can cause. My wife and I were also within 75 miles of Joplin, Mo when the F5 tornado destroyed the city. In these cases as in many, amateur radio was there first and remained throughout these disasters. There are many stories of the hams that handled these and other crises that were caused both by nature and also by man.

The bottom line is: We can ill afford to lower our guard or standards when it comes to our emergency preparedness. Communication is one of the vital parts for the protection of our families and our neighbors.

So where do we start? We should take advantage of every opportunity to sharpen our skills. Get involved in areas that can aid in a crisis. Expand our knowledge in emergency radio procedures with the various nets. Learn some digital work as in FLDIGI. Use some simplex modes on VHF and UHF. Attend a Skywarn Class and participate in some of our go kit outings. We all need to get out of our comfort zone, try something new, and make some contacts.

I think we need to combine the two mottos: “Be Prepared For When All Else Fails”.

Remember it's not if it will happen... it's ... When it's going to happen.

(February Minutes from page 2)

Archie Hill W5AG was nominated for Treasurer. On motion by Jess Gillion KF5LUL, seconded by Paula Romero KF5CNS the nominations were closed. Archie Hill W5AG is Treasurer.

Glen Thibodeaux KF5FNP and Ric Wallace KF5KEL were nominated for Board of Directors. There were nominations from the floor: Tom Dischler W5OHJ, Ric Wallace KF5KEL, Glen Thibodeaux KF5FNP, Calvin Begnaud KD5JCT, Paula Romero KF5CNS, Nick Romero KE5MWX, and Jess Gillion KF5LUL. Ballots were passed out and Tom Dischler W5OHJ, Ric Wallace KF5KEL and Glen Thibodeaux KF5FNP were elected to the Board.

Officers will be installed at the April 2nd Banquet meeting.

On motion by Rick Wallace KF5KEL, seconded by Nick Romero KE5MWX it was voted to adjourn the meeting.

Respectively submitted,
Sandy LeBlanc KE5KJF
AARA Secretary 2014-2015

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH HAM RADIO LATELY?

AARA Monday Night Net Dual-Band HT Giveaway

Monday Night 2 Meter Net @ 7:00 PM on Rotation Schedule (see page 5 for information)

At the February General Club meeting the drawing for the 2014 Monday Night Net Dual Band HT giveaway took place. The following callsigns were the Top 10 check-ins and earned entry of their callsign in the drawing:

WM5TS – Derek - 52
KN5GRK – Herman - 51
KF5THS – AJ – 50
K5LFT – Greg - 46
KF5BET – Galen - 45
KF5FYS – Kendra - 43
KF5BEW – Abbi - 41
KD5JSM – Danny - 38
KF5LUL – Jess - 36
W5OHJ – Tom - 36

KG5AYI Samuel (who turned 9 years old on February 26) picked the winning callsign – WM5TS Derek, who managed to check in to every Monday Night Net called in 2014. Congratulations to Derek for winning the HT and thanks to everyone who participated on Monday Night.

The Dual Band HT giveaway will continue for 2015. The Top 10 check-ins will have a chance to win a Dual-Band HT at the end of the year. I hope to hear YOUR callsign during check-ins on the AARA Monday Night Net.

Mark
W5GTI

Daylight Saving Time

Get ready to set your watches -- and your phones, and your clocks -- ahead one hour. Daylight-saving time begins on March 8, 2015



Samuel pulling lucky winner and presenting the radio to Derek WM5TS

FEBRUARY 2015 ACADIANA AREA 2 METER NET REPORTS

NET	SESSIONS:	TOTAL CHECK-INS:	TOTAL TRAFFIC:	TOTAL TIME: Minutes	Net Manager
OAARC Net - Opelousas Area Amateur Radio Club	4	24	Ø	65	N5LRZ Ray
AARA Monday Night Net	4	54	Ø	140	W5GTI Mark
Acadiana ARES Net	4	24	Ø	75	N5LRZ Ray
Bodie's Memorial DX Net	4	26	3	110	N5LRZ Ray
Youth Thursday Night Net	3	34	Ø	98	KF5BEW Abbi KF5FYS Kendra

TODAY IS THE OLDEST YOU'VE EVER BEEN, YET THE YOUNGEST YOU'LL EVER BE, - SO ENJOY THIS DAY WHILE IT LASTS.

AARA Monday Night 2 Meter Net Rotation

Mark W5GTI, the net control station, for the AARA Monday Night Net had suggested that the net be rotated between three different area repeaters. Here is the March 2015 schedule:

DATE:	TIME:	REPEATER:	PL TONE:
March 2	7:00 PM	147.040	103.5
March 9	7:00 PM	146.820	103.5
March 16	7:00 PM	145.370	103.5
March 23	7:00 PM	147.040	103.5
March 30	7:00 PM	146.820	103.5

When using the SkyWarn 145.370 repeater, be sure to use the receiver PL Tone for your area as follows:

NW Quadrant 114.8 - NE Quadrant 127.3 - SW Quadrant 141.3 - SE Quadrant 94.8.

The March 2015 schedule can be downloaded and printed in Adobe Acrobat .PDF from the club website at:

http://www.w5ddl.org/clubsite/files/monday_net.pdf

Notice: Mark W5GTI announced again that he would continue the AARA Monday Night Net contest for 2015.

The top 10 check-ins on the Monday Night AAARA Net during 2015 will get their call/name entered into a drawing and a winner from the top 10 check-ins will receive a Chinese import dual band handi-talkie paid for by Mark W5GTI. **HOW ABOUT THAT?** So be sure to check into the net and thanks to Mark in keeping the net active.

AARA



UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

3/7	JACKIE	KF5PCH
3/13	JESS	JESS
3/16	INGO	KK6EWB
3/19	TERRY	N5QWA
3/31	JOHN	NØJA
4/1	MARK	W5GTI
4/6	ARNOLD	KE5JXC
4/7	MICHAEL	KB1NRO
4/8	GALEN	KF5BET

Some members failed to put their birthdays on their applications for renewal / membership causing some names to be missing from the list.



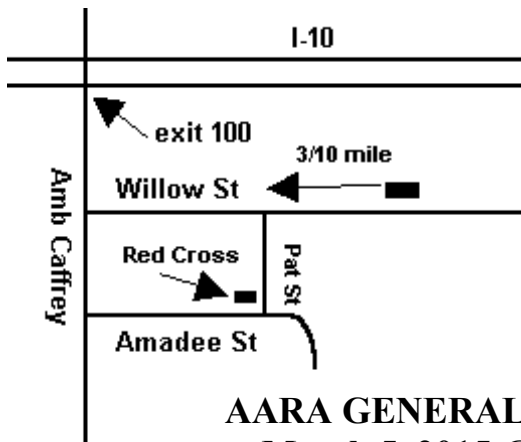
February VE Test Results

Michael J LeBlanc of New Iberia, LA upgraded to General Class license.

VE's were: Greg K5LFT, Ric KF5KEL, Mark W5GTI, and Tom W5OHJ.

Acadiana Amateur Radio Assoc., Inc.
P. O. Box 51174
Lafayette, LA 70505-1174

Website: <http://www.w5ddl.org>



Share the Fun - Bring a
Friend to be a HAM !

AARA GENERAL MEETING

March 5, 2015 @ 7:00 PM

Red Cross Building - 101 N. Pat St. Scott, LA

VE Testing Tonight @ 6:00 PM

Golden Corral - Ambassador Caffery

Lunch Bunch - Each Wednesday 10:45 AM - 2:00 PM

Golden Corral - Amb. Caffery - Lafayette, LA

Check 146.820 PL 103.5 - repeater for info.

COMPLIMENTARY
ISSUE

Stuffed Cabbage Casserole in Crock Pot

(Old Recipe - author unknown)

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 1 pound of ground beef | 1 14 1/2 ounce can diced to-
matoes, un-drained |
| 1/3 cup chopped onion | 1 tablespoon Worcestershire
sauce |
| 4 cups of coleslaw mix | 1 teaspoon of salt |
| 1 medium green pepper, chopped | 1 teaspoon of pepper |
| 1 1/2 cup uncooked instant rice | 1/2 teaspoon of garlic powder |
| 2 beef bouillon cubes | |
| 1 6 ounce can tomato paste | |

Directions:

In a skillet cook beef and onion til brown and then drain any grease. Transfer to crock pot and add slaw mix, green pepper, and rice. Dissolve bouillon cubes in warm water. In a bowl combine water, tomato paste, and remaining ingredients and stir together. Pour over beef mixture and mix well. Cover and cook on low for 4 to 5 hours or until the rice and veggies are tender.

Y.A.C.H.T Net

Y-oung A-mateurs C-ommunications H-am T-eam

Check out this net on EchoLink dedicated to all young amateur radio operators on Saturday evenings at 7 PM central time on the W8PIF-R repeater Node #:481872 Menominee, MI. Check out their website at:

<http://yachthams.webstarts.com/index.html>

FCC Information Service

Toll Free (WATS) for Amateur Radio license inquiries about new/vanity call signs: 888-225-5322. This will connect you the FCC National Call Center, handled by the FCC's Consumer Information Bureau. Amateurs having ULS problems or questions should contact the FCC's ULS Technical Support staff at: 202-414-1250 or:

ulscomm@fcc.gov.

FCC Website:

<http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/>

New call sign information can also be obtained from the ARRL/VEC at 860-594-3000.

<http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec>

The mailing address to the FCC is:

Federal Communications Commission, 1270 Fairfield Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325-7245